



2020 YEAR IN REVIEW



Whether it is helping interagency partners such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration reach the stars or cross-jurisdictional partners meet their goals here on earth, the HSIN program provides the expertise and access to resources that homeland security personnel rely on to do their jobs more efficiently and effectively. This past year, HSIN faced challenges unlike any it had experienced previously due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This 2020 Year in Review highlights many of the ways that HSIN supported partners as they performed daily operations, responded to emergencies, or supported safety and security during key events.

JANUARY

Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attack Exercise

HSIN supported approximately 50 organizations—including federal agencies, state and local law enforcement, emergency medical services, hospitals, public health organizations, fire protection services, emergency management and private sector organizations—in a multi-day exercise to test planning and preparedness in the St. Louis area.

Houston Marathon

The Houston Regional Intelligence Service Center and Houston Police Department used HSIN to support public safety operations related to the Houston Marathon and Half-Marathon, which attracted more than 20,000 runners to a course that ran through downtown Houston and throughout parts of the city.

FEBRUARY

State of the Union Address

The D.C. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency and multiple local, state and federal partners relied on HSIN for interagency coordination, real-time collaboration and operational security for the President's State of the Union address.

Super Bowl 54 in Miami

For the eighth consecutive year, HSIN played a key role in allowing real-time information sharing and situational awareness among public safety partners; 34 government agencies and over 630 users relied on HSIN for planning, coordination, risk mitigation, and incident tracking and response as more than 100,000 out-of-town fans flocked to South Florida for the game and related events.

Nationwide SchoolSafety.gov Launch

SchoolSafety.gov, a nationwide school safety initiative aimed at supporting safety and emergency planning for schools across the country, launched on Feb. 10. On the public website, school officials and law enforcement officers can request to join a HSIN community that provides access to real-world examples of schools' emergency response plans.

MARCH

Single-Day Record for HSIN Connect Use, Up 558% Compared to Pre-COVID-19

In late March, HSIN Connect peaked at 6,877 individual participants on a single day in 170 different sessions. Users turned to HSIN Connect to share information, plan, monitor activities, and perform operations related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Little Rock Marathon and Events

The Arkansas State Fusion Center used HSIN to support public safety operations for the Little Rock Marathon and related entertainment events held at multiple venues in the River Market District area of the city.

APRIL

Federal COVID-19 Response Task Force HSIN Site Launched

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services launched the Federal COVID-19 Response Task Force community on HSIN to help coordinate COVID-19 response and collaborate on operations, resource availability, and briefing documents.

800 Participants Use HSIN for New Jersey COVID-19 Coordination

Approximately 800 participants—including the New Jersey State Police Superintendent, the New Jersey State Attorney General, and the U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey—used HSIN to share information and collaborate on COVID-19 operations during a briefing held for the State of New Jersey.



Alabama, Mississippi and Virginia Severe Weather

Emergency management agencies across Alabama, Mississippi and Virginia used HSIN for real-time information sharing to track response and recovery efforts related to severe storms that impacted their regions April 12–13.

MAY

30 National Capital Region Agencies Use HSIN for COVID-19

A “Watch and Warn” desk at the District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (DCHSEMA) managed a 24/7 HSIN Connect room to share information and collaborate with 30 National Capital Region agencies in support of COVID-19 operations.

300 Users Attend HSIN COVID-19 User Group Webinar

HSIN conducted a COVID-19 HSIN User Group (HUG) webinar for all HSIN users to ensure HSIN was providing the best possible service, tools and information. The COVID-19 meeting allowed users to make recommendations and share their experiences with HSIN Program Management and other DHS leaders.

JUNE

33 States and 50 Agencies Use HSIN to Mitigate Risks During Civil Unrest

At least 33 states and 50 agencies used HSIN to monitor instances of civil unrest across the country. Partners used HSIN to share information available in open sources and social media, track escalations of violence, and implement risk mitigation strategies, which helped protect protesters and critical infrastructure.

Seven States and Washington, D.C. Use HSIN to Support Election Security for Primaries

The Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EI-ISAC) along with federal, state, and local partners used HSIN for real-time information sharing including live monitoring of election threats for primary elections held on June 2 in the District of Columbia, Indiana, Maryland, Montana, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and South Dakota.

JULY

Washington, D.C. July 4 Salute to America

The National Capital Region (NCR) Threat Intelligence Consortium and District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency used HSIN to share information with their NCR partners during the July 4 Independence Day festivities in Washington, D.C.

NASA Mission Minotaur Launch

NASA's Wallops Flight Facility used HSIN to integrate with local emergency operations centers, emergency medical service officials, law enforcement, and fire and rescue personnel during the launch of a Minotaur IV rocket carrying classified cargo.

Hurricanes Douglas and Hanna

U.S. Coast Guard District 14 and Sector Honolulu used HSIN for preparedness and response operations as Hurricane Douglas approached the islands, and Sector Corpus Christi used HSIN to share information between regional maritime partners for Hurricane Hanna, which impacted South Texas.

AUGUST

Hurricanes Isaias and Laura

More than ten public safety partners across Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania and other locations used HSIN for Isaias operations, and partners across Texas, Louisiana, and the Mississippi Gulf Coast used HSIN for Hurricane Laura.

PGA Championship

Cook County Emergency Management, DHS' Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), and regional partners used HSIN to support information sharing during the PGA BMW Championship, held August 27–30 in Olympia Fields, IL.

SEPTEMBER

Presidential Debate Cleveland

DHS' CISA, the Commission on Presidential Debates, Cleveland Police, the Northeast Ohio Regional Fusion Center and other partners used HSIN to support physical and cyber security during the debate held in Cleveland.

Cyber Shield 2020 Exercise

The National Guard Bureau, U.S. Army Reserve and participants from all state and territorial National Guard cyber units used HSIN for the Cyber Shield 2020 exercise, which was conducted virtually and prepared participants for cyberattack and response scenarios.

Kentucky Derby

The Louisville Metro Police Department and Kentucky Intelligence Fusion Center used HSIN for real-time information sharing during the Kentucky Oaks horse race on September 4 and the Kentucky Derby on September 5.

West Coast Wildfires

Marion County Emergency Management in Oregon used HSIN Connect to share real-time information with all 20 of its cities to coordinate evacuation lines, refugee locations, and incident action plans during the wildfires.

OCTOBER

MLB World Series

The Fort Worth Intelligence Exchange (INTX) used HSIN for situational awareness and shared its HSIN Connect room with DHS, FBI, and other regional agencies, including public safety partners in Arlington, Texas, which hosted all of the 2020 World Series games.

NOVEMBER

Election Security

DHS' CISA, the EI-ISAC, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and numerous other state and local partners nationwide relied on HSIN resources for election security.

DECEMBER

NFL Monday Night Football

The NFL Global Security Operations Center and public safety partners used HSIN Connect to support safety and security operations during the Buffalo Bills vs. San Francisco 49ers game held December 7 in Phoenix, Arizona.

These are just some of our mission support and programmatic accomplishments in 2020. To learn how HSIN can support your mission, contact the HSIN Outreach team at HSIN@hq.dhs.gov.

Color Key:

- Daily Operations
- Events & Exercises
- Incident Support
- Supported Multiple Consecutive Years